

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

HALLMARK SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY	*	CIVIL ACTION NO. 6:15-CV-02696
	*	
	*	
VERSUS	*	CHIEF JUDGE DEE D. DRELL
	*	
JOHNSON'S CRANE INSPECTION SERVICES, LLC and JEFFREY D. JOHNSON	*	
	*	MAGISTRATE WHITEHURST

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF California

COUNTY OF San Diego

Bradley D. Closson, after being duly sworn, states:

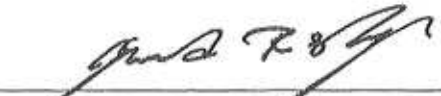
1. I make this Affidavit in opposition to Hallmark Specialty Insurance Company's Motion for Summary Judgment. I am personally familiar with the facts stated in this Affidavit, and I am competent to testify to them.
2. I am a graduate of the United States Naval Academy with a degree in Naval Science which has been evaluated as comparable to a mechanical engineering degree from a civilian institution. Attached as Exhibit "A" is my curriculum vitae which sets forth my education, training and experience in general engineering, forensic engineering and forensic mechanical engineering as it pertains to the design, construction, maintenance, inspection and use of cranes.
3. I have been accepted by the court as an expert in the field of mechanical engineering related to crane systems in the matter entitled Jose Palacios Perez, et al vs. NES Equipment Services Corp., et al, bearing Docket No. 124136-H on the docket of the 16th Judicial District Court, Iberia Parish, Louisiana.
4. I personally inspected the Terex Model No. RT450 crane with serial number 10880 referenced in Hallmark Specialty Insurance Company's Motion for Summary Judgment, and which was involved in the December 26, 2013 accident in which Jose Palacios Perez was injured.
5. In addition to my inspection, I have been provided with, and reviewed, photographs depicting the aforementioned crane's condition on August 1, 2013.

Based on my inspection of the incident crane and review of the aforementioned photographs, it is my opinion that the aforementioned crane arrived at the Chart Energy and Chemicals, Inc. facility referenced in Hallmark Specialty Insurance Company's Motion for Summary Judgment on August 1, 2013:

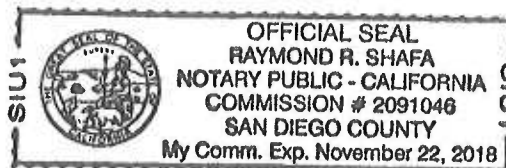
- a. Without the A2B switch actuator outer-bearing installed.
 - b. With "new looking" bolts and washers attaching the A2B cover.
 - c. With hammer and scrape marks on the exposed end of the A2B actuator.
 - d. With a new A2B actuator weight chain attached and looped.
 - e. With the A2B cover front-end damaged.
 - f. With the auxiliary boom tip showing evidence of previous two blocking events.
 - g. With wire rope lubrication marks on the outer cover of the A2B switch.
 - h. With the A2B switch connecting electrical wire being displaced and the wire shield cut.
 - i. Without the damage to the operator control console's laminate, which exposed holes in the console panel's sheet metal.
6. It is my opinion that the aforementioned crane A2B failed to function correctly and Jose Palacios Perez was injured, in whole or in part, due to the uninstalled A2B switch outer-bearing.
 7. It is my opinion based upon my review of Jeffrey Johnson's testimony, the applicable regulations, safety codes and standards that Jeffrey Johnson and Johnson Crane Inspection, LLC failed to properly inspect the A2B switch, verify that the outer-bearing was properly installed and the A2B switch functioned correctly, in the aforementioned crane, and that failure resulted in Jose Palacios Perez's bodily injury.


BRADLEY D. CLOSSON

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of March, 2017.



NOTARY PUBLIC in and for
the County of San Diego, State of California
Printed Name and ID #: 2091046
My Commission Expires: 11-22-2018





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Bonita, California 91902

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Curriculum Vitae of Bradley D. Closson

EXPERIENCE

October 2004 - To Present **CRAFT Forensic Services, Bonita, CA**
President

- Provide material handling accident investigation, reconstruction and litigation services.
- Provide consultation, support and presentation services in the areas of material handling management, equipment operation, new equipment evaluation and equipment-associated personnel training issues.
- Member, Board on Safety Codes and Standards of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Vice-President from 2003 - 2006 overseeing the development of safety codes and standards including the A17 on Elevators, B30 on Cranes and B56 on Forklifts and currently the Chairman of the ASME Board on Hearings and Appeals and 2011 Recipient of the ASME Dedicated Service Award.
- Member of the ASME B30 Safety Standard Committee for Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings and Vice Chairman from 2002 to 2008. This committee develops the design, construction and operation safety criteria that are the basis for federal and state OSHA regulations. Subcommittee Memberships include:

B30.3 Construction Tower Cranes	B30.7 Base Mounted Drum Hoists
B30.4 Portal, Tower and Pillar Cranes	B30.8 Floating Cranes and Derricks
B30.23 Personnel Lifting Systems	B30.28 Load Positioners
- Member of the United States Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to "ISO TC-96", the International Standards Organization, standard development group addressing "Cranes".
- Member of the ASME P30 Safety Standard Committee on Planning for the use of Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Cableways, Aerial Devices, and Lifting Accessories.
- Licensed as a State of California Crane Surveyor for all categories of cranes to August 2006.
- Member California OSHA Advisory Board on Crane, Rigging and Material Handling regulations.

September 92- September 04 **N.A.C.B. Technical Services, Inc., San Diego, CA**

Vice President, Various Corporations of the N.A.C.B. Group, Orlando, FL

- Performed inspections as mandated by Federal, State, Local and Industry regulations on all categories of mobile cranes, overhead cranes, tower cranes, fixed cranes, aerial devices, industrial trucks and rigging equipment.
- Provided consultation and support services in the areas of material handling management, equipment operation, equipment associated personnel training and litigation activities.
- Provided material handling accident investigation and reconstruction services.
- Spoke at lifting industry professional development sessions and at scheduled classes on material handling regulations and management, inspection, operation and rigging.
- Instructed at the University of California OSHA Institute. Courses included the Federal "Trainer Course", "Introductory Course" and the California "Mobile Crane Inspector".
- President of the Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals 1995 to 1997.
- Participated on Federal OSHA's Crane Workgroup reviewing the 29 CFR 1926, Construction Crane standards and California OSHA's Advisory Committee on Cranes.
- Participated on the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) task force that defined the National Crane Operator Certification criteria.
- Authorized as a 29 CFR 1919 Signatory Authority for the inspection of Floating Cranes and Derricks, Shore Based Material Handling Equipment and Non-destructive Evaluation.
- Licensed as a State of California Crane Surveyor for all categories of cranes. Member of the State of California Advisory Board on crane related regulations.
- Approved as a State of Nevada Crane Inspector and Crane Operator Trainer.
- Certified as a Washington State Crane Inspector.

EXHIBIT A

Curriculum Vitae of Bradley D. Closson

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- April 79-
July 92** **National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, San Diego, CA**
Various shipbuilding design and management positions - **4/79 to 1/86**
Cranes, Rigging and Transportation Department Manager - **2/86 to 7/92**
- Managed the daily operation, inspection and maintenance of:

Land Based Equipment		
6 Portal Cranes	2 Truck Cranes	4 Hydraulic Boom Lift Trucks
6 Mobile Tower Cranes	3 Fixed Tower Cranes	40 Industrial Fork Trucks
4 Hydraulic Cranes	75 Overhead Cranes	7 Busses and Trucks
56 Carts and Trailers	1 Rigging Fabrication and Hoist Repair Facility	
Water Borne Equipment		
6 Floating Barges	2 Dry Docks	3 Tugboats 11 Mooring Berths
 - Developed, implemented and maintained inspection programs that monitored equipment condition and scheduled necessary, and mandated, inspections and tests.
 - Personally monitored and performed the daily and weekly inspections of material handling equipment and rigging components that supported the facilities 350-ton single lift capacity.
 - Personally performed regular inspections of all land and water borne equipment for material condition, future maintenance needs and correct operational configurations.
 - Reviewed, approved and monitored repair activities associated with all material handling equipment. Equipment included those listed above and 250-ton lifting beams, alloy steel chain slings, fittings, nylon/Kevlar slings and all configurations of attachment hardware.
 - Performed design review of 15 new crane installations and numerous mobile-equipment purchases to insure compliance with all applicable ANSI and OSHA requirements.
 - Performed calculation and application reviews on temporary floating crane applications to ensure all potential safety issues were considered. Review included vessel structure and stability, operational configuration limitations and crane limitations.
 - Performed acceptance inspections on nine new crane installations with capacities ranging from 1 ton to 35 tons. Crane configurations ranged from wall cranes to full gantries.
 - Performed pre-purchase inspections on two 130-ton mobile portal tower cranes to determine structural and mechanical condition and design compliance with regulatory requirements.
 - Developed, implemented and maintained Equipment Operator Training and Certification Programs to satisfy all requirements of Federal OSHA, California OSHA and American National Standards B30 and B56 documents. Training programs covered crane operation, rigging skills and practices and industrial truck operation. After implementation, I monitored all programs to assure content and quality.
 - Monitored and directed the lift planning process for crane loads ranging from small size, high value, loads to large size, high weight and volume loads to assure that all aspects of safe lift planning and lifting practices were addressed and in compliance.
 - Performed as the Owners, On-Site Representative during the construction of a 620 foot, 25,400 ton, floating dry dock outfitted with 4 constant tension mooring winches, a 35 metric ton electric, level luffing, portal crane and multiple deck mounted capstans. I personally monitored all aspects of the dry dock construction, equipment installation, pre-operation inspection and operational testing. Responsible for ensuring that all equipment met the requirements of the applicable Federal Regulations and US Navy performance standards.
 - Performed as Ship Repair Manager for a U.S. Navy Destroyer. Personally inspected repair actions on the ships davits, winches, windlasses, hoists, propulsion systems and hull structure.

- June 67-
April 79** **United States Navy, Atlantic and Pacific Surface Forces**
Surface Warfare Officer, US Naval Reserves - 4/79 to 6/81
- Served on five surface ships and at four shore installations including a Navy Shipyard.
 - Served as Operations, Combat Information Center, Intelligence, Navigation and Legal Officer.
 - Qualified as a Surface Warfare, Tactical Action, Command Duty, Electronic Warfare, Navigation Engineering Watch and Intelligence Officer.
 - Served as the Aide to the Commandant, Naval District Washington, DC.
 - Awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and numerous Letters of Commendation.
 - Achieved rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Curriculum Vitae of Bradley D. Closson

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EDUCATION

- Mar 2007 Society of Automotive Engineers International
Wet Brake and Clutch Technology. Covered the design and operational considerations regarding the mechanics of the systems and their friction materials.
- May 2000 Bendix / Allied Signal
Air Brake System Design, Inspection and Operation. Covered the brake component applications as well as inspection and safe operating practices for air brakes.
- Mar 1994 Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, San Luis Obispo, CA
Nuclear Power Plant Safety Procedures and Practices.
- Apr 1993 The Von Corporation, Birmingham, AL
Nondestructive Dielectric Testing Course. Covered the theory and practice of performing dielectric tests on electrically insulating components and equipment.
- May 1992 National Steel and Shipbuilding, San Diego, CA
Shipyards Competent Person Course. Covered confined space safety, chemical exposure limits, inspection procedures and documentation requirements.
- Feb 1991 National Steel and Shipbuilding, San Diego, CA
Scaffolding Safety and Inspection Course. Covered the safety and regulatory requirements of scaffold structures as well as operational inspections.
- May 1990 National Steel and Shipbuilding, San Diego, CA
High Reach Equipment Inspection and Operation Course. Covered the pre-operation inspection and safe operating practices for equipment up to 80 feet in reach.
- May 1988 Crane Inspection and Certification Bureau, Orlando, FL
Personnel Lifting Course. Covered Federal Requirements for the construction and use of Crane Suspended Personnel Carriers.
- Apr 1988 University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Overhead Crane Safety Course. Covered crane and building design considerations, maintenance criteria and inspection procedures for Overhead Cranes.
- Jan 1983 American Management Associations, New York, NY
Management Course. Graduate level study in Corporate Management.
- Sep 1976 Surface Warfare School, Newport, RI
Graduate level study in Mechanics and Electronics.
- Mar 1977 Surface Warfare School, Newport, RI
Qualified Engineering Officer, 1200 psi Steam Propulsion Plant.
- Sep 1971 Naval Training Command, Atlantic and Pacific
Electronic Communication, Electronic Intelligence, Nuclear Weapons, Oceanography, Shipboard Damage Control and Helicopter Operation Courses.
- Jun 1975 U.S. Naval War College, Washington, DC
Graduate level study in National Strategy and Policy.
- Aug 1971 Naval Justice School, Newport, RI
Qualified Navy Legal Officer, Non-JAG. Study in Military and Civilian Law.
- Jun 1967 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD
BS in Naval Science. (Mechanical Engineering Equivalence)

MEMBERSHIPS

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|
| Member | American Society of Mechanical Engineers | (ASME) |
| Member | American Society of Naval Engineers | (ASNE) |
| Member | American Society of Safety Engineers | (ASSE) |
| Member | Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals | (ACRP) |
| Member | Crane Certification Association of America | (CCAA) |
| Member | Society of Automotive Engineers | (SAE) |
| Member | Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers | (SNAME) |
| Associate | American Society of Civil Engineers | (ASCE) |

PRESENTATIONS and PUBLICATIONS

2011	Crane and Rigging Conference – Las Vegas – “Limiting Your Exposure in an Accident – It’s the paperwork”.
2010	Crane and Rigging Conference – Houston - “Crane Operation and Inspection Safety - It's the little things”.
2009	NACB Profession Development Conference– “Crane Operation and Inspection Safety - It's the little things”.
2009	Crane Certification Association of America, CCAA – “Invisible Hazards”.
2009	“The Problem with De-Rating Cranes”, April - Crane Hotline
2008	American Society of Safety Engineers - "Crane Safety - Platitudes or Practices".
2007	American Petroleum Institute – “Polar Plotting for Accident Investigation”.
2007	Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals, ACRP – “Polar Plotting for Planning and Accident Investigation”.
2006	Crane Certification Association of America, CCAA – “Post Accident Documentation”, and “ASME / ANSI Crane Standards”.
2006	U.S. Department of the Interior, MMS – “ASME Material Handling Standards”.
2006	"Points to Remember when Lifting People", Cranes Today Magazine.
2005	CON/AG EXPO – “Personnel Lifting Safety Requirements”.
2004	NACB Profession Development Conference– “Wind and Ground Condition Hazards”.
2004	CCAA Annual Convention– “Crane Safety Consensus Standards and Regulations”.
2004	Tree Care Industry Association Spring Convention– “Best Crane Practices”.
2003	NIST – CHINA Workshop–“U.S. Crane Safety Standards and Regulations”.
2002	CON/AG EXPO – “Personnel Lifting– Comparison of Requirements”.
2001	UAW / GM Joint Safety Meeting– “Crane Rigging – Inspection and Use”.
2000	UAW / GM Joint Safety Meeting– “Crane Laws and Consensus Standards”.
2000	Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals– “Crane Capacity Calculations”.
2000	IUE / DELPHI Joint Safety Meeting– “Overhead Crane Regulations and Standards”.
1999	UAW / GM Joint Safety Meeting– “Overhead Crane Inspection and Safety Issues”.
1999	California OSHA Licensed Inspector Meeting–“B30 Standard in California”.
1999	California OSHA Licensed Inspector Meeting– “Crane Operator Qualifications”.
1999	International Telecommunications Conference– “Aerial Device and Crane Safety”.
1998	Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals–“Personnel Lifting Safety”.
1997	Washington Crane Safety Association– “Working near High Voltage Lines”.
1997	Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals– “Working near High Voltage Lines”.
1997	Associated Wire Rope Fabricators– “Synthetic Roundsling Safety Standards”.
1997	Association of General Contractors– “Crane Safety Management”.
1996	Association of General Contractors– “Safety and liability using rented cranes”.
1995	Systems Safety Association– “Lifting Equipment Inspections to Ensure Safety”.
1995	Specialized Carriers and Riggers Association–“Mobile Crane Electrical Safety”.
1994	Associated Wire Rope Fabricators– “Status of Lifting Safety Standards”.
1994	Southern California Industrial Safety Society– “Crane Safety”.
1993	National Safety Council–“Mobile Crane Safety”.
1993	Specialized Carriers and Riggers Association–“Crane Consensus Standards”.
1993	Crane Works, September-October, “Acknowledging the blind lift”.
1986-1992	NASSCO –“Shipyard Crane, Rigging and Transportation Operations Safety Considerations”-“New Hire” and “Engineers in Training” orientation.
1978-1979	USS Turner Joy – “Shipyard Safety Orientation” – New crewmember orientation.